



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on the External Auditors**

As delivered by Resource Management Office Director Greg Slotta  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 7, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We welcome the external auditors today and thank the Government of the United Kingdom for the services of its audit team. Thank you for your presentation today and for your hard work in reviewing the OSCE's finances and management structures.

We are pleased to hear that you have found the OSCE merits an unqualified audit statement for 2004. We appreciate your findings on areas for improvement within the OSCE and call upon the Secretary General and OSCE Heads of Mission to develop work plans to address the short-comings which have been identified.

The U.S. believes strongly in the positive role external auditing and independent internal oversight play in organizational management. All elements within the OSCE need to cooperate with audit teams and to take their findings seriously. We look forward to the establishment of an audit committee, as was approved by the Permanent Council some months ago.

We hope that the OSCE Secretariat will continue to focus on organizing the records for extra-budgetary contributions, as was called for by the audit teams.

We urge our colleagues here to join us in a pledge to cooperate so that we may adopt the 2006 Unified Budget and new scales of assessment on schedule. As was noted by the external auditors, if we want the OSCE to be well managed, which indeed should be a goal, then we, the participating States, must contribute to that effort by passing budgets on time and providing the organization with the financial and human resources it needs to address its vital missions. Thank you again for your report.